

# 2016 Wildfire Protection Building Construction Task Force

## Task Force Report and Recommendations

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## **Acknowledgements**

This report was developed through the culmination through outstanding collaborative efforts of the many disciplines involved with the Office of the State Fire Marshal **2016 Wildfire Protection Building Construction Task Force**.

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The Office of the State Fire Marshal thanks each member and their organizations for their assistance with this important work.

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## **Task Force Overview, History and Scope**

The Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) established the 2016 Wildfire Protection Building Construction Task Force to review and evaluate the current wildfire protection building construction provisions within the California Building Standards Codes, as published in:

- 2016 California Building Code- Chapter 7A
- 2016 California Residential Code- Section R337
- 2016 California Fire Code- Chapter 49
- 2016 California Referenced Standards Code

The Task Force was asked to provide recommendations to the OSFM that will be considered as possible amendments for the 2016 Intervening Code Adoption Cycle, effective July 1, 2018. Any items that the Task Force could not be finalized prior to September 2016, would be evaluated by a second Task Force that will be formed in early 2017. Items moved forward by the 2017 Task Force will be considered for the 2018 Triennial Code Adoption Cycle (2019 California Building Standards), effective January 1, 2020. See Appendix B for items recommended for the 2017 Task Force to consider.

The Task Force, with representation from state and local code enforcement agencies, industry, fire testing laboratories, and other subject matter experts, first convened in May 2016 and met monthly through September 2016. This Task Force was a reformation of the previous OSFM *Wildfire Protection Building Construction (CBC 2010 CH7A) Task Force* that concluded in 2009. Several of the Task Force members served previously on “OSFM Wildland-urban Interface Building Standards Advisory Groups” in 2001, 2002, 2005, and 2009 and provided valuable continuity for legislative intent and underlying regulatory purpose for specific requirements.

### ***History of Previous OSFM Wildfire Protection Regulations***

The following background and summary of historical efforts may prove useful in understanding how the code ended up with the current provisions and provide context for developing plans for future rulemaking activities.

Local government ordinances banning the use of untreated wood roofing date back to 1923 following the Berkeley Hills Fire that destroyed 523 major buildings. However, it took another 65 years before minimum requirements to protect roofs and attic openings were consistently implemented statewide.

The origin of statewide building construction requirements to protect houses from wildfire exposure dates back 35 years. In 1981-1983 the legislature established Health and Safety Code Section 13108.5 mandating that the OSFM propose minimum roof covering and attic opening requirements to the California Building Standards Commission. This resulted in California Building Code (CBC) Chapter 15 roofing requirements, the first known time a state building code incorporated provisions for wildfire protection. However, due to industry opposition, jurisdictional issues among state and local governments, and a lack of science-based technical data and understanding of the Wildland-urban Interface fire loss problem, effective implementation was thwarted for two decades.

In the mid 1990's OSFM began what would become a ten-year program, supported by millions of dollars of Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) hazard mitigation funding, to develop new approaches to wildfire loss reduction. This program included development and publication of the Urban-Wildland Interface Code, the first such model building code, and University of California research, testing, and development of what would eventually become the CBC Chapter 7A fire test standards in use today.

In 2001 the *U.C. Forest Products Laboratory Performance Based Code Advisory Board* guided development of performance-based statements and objectives for use by the lab and the OSFM. The *Urban-Wildland Interface Building Standards Advisory Committee* (under several names and re-organizations) worked from 2002 through 2005 to provide the OSFM with recommendations that served as the essential foundation to establish CBC Chapter 7A and related code provisions.

The 2005 California's Wildland-Urban Interface Building Standards initially became effective in December 2005 and with phased implementation was fully applicable in July 2008. Although OSFM lacked the previous grant funding for staff, research, program development, the Code Development and Analysis Division staff guided the 2009 Task Force in making many substantial advancements as well as conducting numerous rulemaking activities during the intervening years from 2005 to 2015.

The 2009 OSFM Wildfire Protection Building Construction Task Force completed the second comprehensive review of exterior wildfire exposure provisions for structures located within the Wildland Urban Interface, since they were originally adopted. The 2009 Task Force recommend amendments to simplify user application, clarify the intent of the regulations, and incorporate advancements in understanding wildfire exposure protection while maintaining the overall hazard mitigation goals established in 2005.



## ***Task Force Scope***

The scope of the project was to review and evaluate the current California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 24 – 2016 California Building Code (CBC), Wildfire Protection Building Construction provisions (CBC 7A), to determine if revisions (amendments) are needed for the 2016 Intervening Code Adoption Cycle (effective July 1, 2018). Changes proposed for the CBC Chapter 7A will also be regulated within California Residential Code (CRC) Section R337, which is a mirrored section within the CRC.

## **The specific items that the Task Force discussed were:**

- **Skylights-** CBC Chapter 7A is silent on the specific protection of skylights with respect to fire resistance and therefore represents a breach in the otherwise complete protection of homes and other buildings within this high risk environment.
- **Garage Doors-** while attention has been given to the small openings in attic areas and other vented areas, the openings around garage doors has been ignored. The Task Force evaluated the need to limit ember intrusion into the very vulnerable garage interiors.
- **Accessory Structures-** the requirements for accessory structures is confusing as written in 2016 CBC and previous editions. Therefore the Accessory Structures subgroup recommends that any 2016 code cycle amendments produce no change in regulatory effect of the existing code. The subgroup recommendations made are intended to facilitate consistent statewide application and assist the user in avoiding misapplication of provisions.
- **Referenced Standards-** the Task Force was asked to clarify the intent of the respective ASTM and the California Referenced Standards Code (Title 24, Part 12), provide guidance for their application, and provide additional information such as pass/fail criteria where the standards are applied.

## **Recommendations**

The following items are recommendations formed by the Task Force.

### ***Skylights***

The subgroup on skylights was concerned about the potential for fire penetration via skylights, when properly used and closed. Therefore, it proposed to treat skylights as windows or other glazing. All types of skylights shall be constructed to meet the same minimum fire resistance

requirements applicable to exterior windows or other acceptable glazed openings. The recommendation was that the change be material neutral.

2016 CBC Section 1505.1.1 requires a Class A rated roof covering assembly (ASTM E108 or UL 790) in Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (VHFHSZs) for new construction and should more than 50% of an existing covering be altered, repaired or replaced. 2016 CBC Chapters 7A and 15 (other than an Exception to Section 1505.1 do not address skylights installed as part of the roof covering assembly. The exception to CBC Section 1505.1 refers to Chapter 24 (glass & glazing) or Section 2610 (light-transmitting plastic skylight glazing). CBC Section 2404 (wind, snow, seismic and dead loads on glass), CBC Section 2405 (sloped glazing and skylights), and CBC Section 2610 does not include or reference the applicable WUI requirements in Chapter 7A which also do not address skylights in VHFHSZs.

Skylights installed per applicable 2016 CBC requirements are not required to provide the minimum Class A rated roof covering assembly of the new, altered, repaired, or replaced roof covering assembly.

### **Proposed Code Changes to the California Building Code:**

The following are proposed changes to the 2016 California Building Code (Chapter 7A). The same changes will need to be made in the 2016 California Residential Code to Section R337. See Appendix A for changes to the CRC.

## ***SECTION 708A*** ***EXTERIOR WINDOWS, SKYLIGHTS AND DOORS***

***708A.2 Exterior glazing.*** *The following exterior glazing materials and/or assemblies shall comply with this section:*

- 1. Exterior windows*
- 2. Exterior glazed doors*
- 3. Glazed openings within exterior doors*
- 4. Glazed openings within exterior garage doors*
- 5. Exterior structural glass veneer*
- 6. Skylights*

***708A.2.1 Exterior windows, skylights and exterior glazed door assembly requirements.*** *Exterior windows, skylights and exterior glazed door assemblies shall comply with one of the following requirements:*

- 1. Be constructed of multipane glazing with a minimum of one pane meeting the requirements of Section 2406 Safety Glazing, or*
- 2. Be constructed of glass block units, or*



3. Have a fire-resistance rating of not less than 20 minutes when tested according to NFPA 257, or
4. Be tested to meet the performance requirements of SFM Standard 12-7A-2

## **Rationale**

Following the October 1991 Oakland Hills Fire, the California Building Standards Commission formed a Working Group to assist the OSFM in conducting fire research and developing regulatory measures to mitigate property damage from Wildland-Urban Interface fires. As a result, CBC, Chapter 7A-Wildland-Urban Interface Code was created. The provisions and standards contained within CBC Chapter 7A have been used successfully for many years in resisting wildland-urban interface fires. More particularly, the performance standard used for roofing materials and roof assemblies have been justified by the empirical data compiled and observations made, under wildfire conditions, of homes constructed in the wildland-urban interface since adoption of Chapter 7A. While overall performance with respect to the roof as a pathway to home loss was markedly improved, homes were lost to wildfires when ignition occurred within the attic area.

The two openings into the attic were attic vents and skylights. Driven by Chapter 7, the OSFM working with ASTM E05.14, Exterior Exposures Committee established the test protocols and apparatus for vents that would effectively limit flame and ember intrusion into the attic space. The inclusion of skylights under CBC Section 708A.2 Exterior Glazing, addresses the remaining pathway of flame and embers through the roof, and effectively completes the ignition resistant envelope of fire protection for homes in the wildland-urban interface. Including skylights in Chapter 7A provides the designers, owners, developers, building and fire officials, as well as subsequent homeowners, additional guidance in resisting wildland-urban interface fire exposure.

## **Garage Doors**

The 2016 CRC and CBC provide mandatory prescriptive requirements for newly-constructed residential and non-residential structures. Model International Residential and Building Codes are provided with the 2015 International Wildland-Urban Interface Code (IWUIC) are different than the California Building Standards.

Garage doors were identified by the Task Force as an area of significant risk for house fires during a wildfire event. Unlike IWUIC that exempts “vehicle

access doors”, the California exterior wildfire exposure building standards include “garage doors” with all other exterior door requirements. California building standards address door requirements, glazing and fire-resistive construction. The risks presented by the size of the garage opening and additional costs in meeting exterior door standards warranted additional research and investigation to protect property from fire during a wildfire event. Garage doors are called out in CBC Section 708A and CRC section R337.8.

Additional standards of protection were evaluated to the hazards of radiation, convection and flying embers. Considerations were made for permitting replacement garage doors, workmanship to create tight-fitting installations, weather stripping and fire-stopping assemblies, including intumescent materials surrounding the opening. Weather stripping proved an agreeable option to all members, and additional research topics were suggested for future investigation.

### **Proposed Code Changes to the California Building Standards:**

The following are proposed changes to the 2016 California Building Code (Chapter 7A). The same changes will need to be made in the 2016 California Residential Code to Section R337. See Appendix A for changes to the CRC.

**708A.4 Weather stripping.** *All exterior doors, including garage doors shall be provided with weather stripping to resist the intrusion of embers from entering through gaps between doors and door openings. Weather stripping or seals shall be installed on the bottom, sides, and tops of doors to reduce gaps between doors and door openings to 1/8-inch (3.2 mm) or less.*

### **Rationale**

The Wildfire Task Force determined that weather stripping is an economically feasible and reasonable improvement that can limit airflow across the pressure zones on either side of door assemblies. Limiting air flow by requiring weather stripping on all doors, including garage doors will help prevent burning embers from entering or lodging in open gaps between doors and their openings. Noncombustible building and door materials will make ignition less likely however, the Task Force’s opinion is that even combustible weather stripping material will aid in resisting ember movement through the exterior door assembly that could start interior fires. Ignition resistance and minimum heat release rates were considered for weather stripping, however, the market availability of weather stripping products with improved fire performance were not researched or evaluated for the this proposal. The Task Force believes that “closing the gaps” in the garage door and assembly will help reduce fire movement to building interiors.

## ***Accessory Structures***

The Accessory Structures recommendations are intended to facilitate consistent statewide application and assist the user in avoiding misapplication of provisions. The Task Force found that the existing *Accessory Buildings and Miscellaneous Structures* section was confusing and elected to clean up the language, and consider changes that might be easily agreed upon.

One source of confusion was that the CBC Section 710A has three different purposes:

- Provide for consistent statewide enforcement of specific and reasonable requirements for construction that pose a high level of potential exterior fire exposure exterior fire exposure to a major building (e.g. small sheds near a house or miscellaneous structures attached to a house).
- Provide authority for the local enforcing agency to evaluate site conditions and enforce specific requirements for sheds or detached structures that pose an intermediate level of potential exterior fire exposure hazard.
- Promote consistent statewide enforcement by clearly limiting application of CBC Chapter 7A state minimum requirements to the most hazardous situations that are consistent with the legislative intent for these regulations (e.g. placing no state requirements on buildings or structures located more than 50 feet from a home).

A second area of confusion was clarity around what buildings the full CBC Chapter 7A requirements apply to, what requirements apply to the smaller buildings covered by the application CBC Section 701A.3 Exception #1, and what requirements apply to various miscellaneous structures.

- Large accessory buildings and structures to which no state minimum requirements apply to because they don't meet the legislative intent or fall within the scope and purpose of the chapter (e.g. agricultural buildings located at least 50 feet from a house or a business).
- Major buildings that the entire Ch7A applies to, e.g. houses, schools, apartment buildings (the kind of buildings that would be counted during a post-fire damage assessment when many buildings are destroyed).
- Small accessory buildings requiring a building permit, not exceeding 120 square feet, and located at least 30 feet from a "major" building (Section 701A.3 Exception #1).
- Attached miscellaneous structures requiring a building permit.
- Detached miscellaneous structures requiring a building permit.

- Small accessory buildings and miscellaneous structures not requiring a building permit.

The Task Force discussion on this section clearly illustrated the need for greater documentation of the legislative intent underlying these regulations and on the nature of the fire-loss problem(s) we are attempting to mitigate.

Additional items of concern discussed were discussed by the subgroup, including provisions that could become overly restrictive e.g. a hot tub under a 10'x15' patio cover located more than 20 feet from the house. Other questions were: play structures and associated surfaces, portable sheds, outdoor living spaces, and similar structures that do not require a building permit. Further questions were whether full assembly testing was needed for roof and wall assemblies or whether to retain some requirements that would apply only to the covering material, in order to clarify consistent enforcement. Another question raised was whether the section should apply to fences and at what distance a regulated fence should be. All these items were postponed for future action.

### **Proposed Code Changes to the California Building Code:**

The following are proposed changes to the 2016 California Building Code (Chapter 7A). The same changes will need to be made in the 2016 California Residential Code to Section R337. See Appendix A for changes to CRC.

**701A.3 Application.** *New buildings located in any Fire Hazard Severity Zone or any Wildland-Urban Interface Fire Area designated by the enforcing agency constructed after the application date shall comply with the provisions of this chapter.*

#### **Exceptions:**

1. *Buildings of an accessory character classified as a Group U occupancy and not exceeding 120 square feet in floor area, when located at least 30 feet from an applicable building.*
2. *Buildings of an accessory character classified as Group U occupancy of any size located least 50 feet from an applicable building.*
3. *Buildings classified as a Group U Agricultural Building, as defined in Section 202 of this code (see also Appendix C – Group U Agricultural Buildings), when located at least 50 feet from an applicable building.*
4. *Additions to and remodels of buildings originally constructed prior to the applicable application date.*

For the purposes of this section and 710A, applicable building includes all buildings that have residential, commercial, educational, institutional, or similar occupancy type use.

**701A.3.2 Application to accessory buildings and miscellaneous structures.** New accessory buildings and miscellaneous structures specified in section 710A shall comply only with the requirements of that section.

**710A.1 General.** Accessory and miscellaneous structures, other than buildings covered by Section 701A.3, which pose a significant exterior exposure hazard to applicable buildings during wildfires shall be constructed to conform to the ignition resistance requirements of this section. Accessory buildings and miscellaneous structures defined in this section that have the potential to pose a significant exterior fire exposure hazard to applicable buildings during wildfires shall be constructed to conform to the requirements of this section.

**710A.2 Applicability.** The provisions of this section shall apply to trellises, arbors, patio covers, carports, gazebos and similar structures of an accessory or miscellaneous character. the specified accessory buildings covered by Section 701A.3 Exception 1. This section shall also apply to specified attached and detached miscellaneous structures that require a building permit, including but not limited to; trellises, arbors, patio covers, carports, gazebos, and similar structures.

**Exceptions.**

1. Decks shall comply with the requirements of Section 709A.
2. Awnings and canopies shall comply with the requirements of Section 3105.
3. Exterior wall architectural trim, embellishments, and fascias.
4. Roof or wall top cornice projections and similar assemblies.

**710A.3 Where required.** Accessory structures shall comply with the requirements of this section. No requirements shall apply to accessory buildings or miscellaneous structures when located at least 50 feet from an applicable building. Applicable accessory buildings and attached miscellaneous structures, or detached miscellaneous structures that are installed at a distance of less than 3 feet from an applicable building, shall comply with this section. When required by the enforcing agency, detached miscellaneous structures that are installed at a distance of more than 3 feet but less than 50 feet from an applicable building shall comply with the requirements of this section.

**710A.3.1 Accessory building requirements.** ~~Attached accessory structures shall comply with the requirements of this section. Applicable accessory buildings that are less than 120 square feet in floor area, and are located more than 30 feet but less than 50 feet from an applicable building shall be constructed of noncombustible materials or of ignition resistant materials as described in Section 704A.2.~~

**710A.3.2 Attached miscellaneous structure requirements.** ~~Applicable miscellaneous structures that are attached to, or installed at a distance of less than 3 feet from, an applicable building shall be constructed of noncombustible materials or of ignition resistant materials as described in Section 704A.2.~~

**710A.3.3 Detached miscellaneous structure requirements.** ~~When required by the enforcing agency, applicable detached miscellaneous structures that are installed at a distance of more than 3 feet but less than 50 feet from, an applicable building shall be constructed of noncombustible materials or of ignition resistant materials as described in Section 704A.2.~~

**710A.4 Requirements.** ~~When required by the enforcing agency accessory structures shall be constructed of noncombustible or ignition-resistant materials.~~

## **Rationale**

The 2007 CBC provisions in section 704A.5.1 on ancillary buildings and structures led to inconsistent application and or misapplication of Chapter 7A requirements to different types of ancillary buildings and no direction on which provisions of Chapter 7A should be applied to other types of ancillary structures.” The 2016 CBC Section 710A requirements for ancillary buildings apply variably to accessory buildings not covered by Section 701A.3, miscellaneous structures that are attached to the primary building, and detached accessory buildings or miscellaneous structures in ways that are difficult to enforce reasonably and consistently.

To help clarify the existing requirements the subgroup recommends two additions to Section 701A.3 to assist the user in correlating the application of requirements between Section 701A.3 and Section 710A, and two additional exceptions to Section 701A.2. There is no change in regulatory effect for the proposed modifications to either of the application provisions.

The recommended amendments to Section 710A.3 will clarify the specific locations where the requirements apply without changing the existing regulatory effect.



There exists the very real likelihood that any number of unpermitted accessory buildings, miscellaneous structures, and combustible personal property items such as vehicles and patio furniture located near the building will “pose a significant exterior exposure hazard to applicable buildings during wildfires.” These are realistic hazards that are outside the scope and purpose of the California Building Standards and should be addressed by other hazard mitigation strategies such as public education, real estate requirements, or fire code enforcement.

### ***Referenced Standards***

It was identified by the wildfire Task Force that the OSFM standards, which were developed in the 1990s, have not been revised and updated in the intervening years. It was also identified that the ASTM E05 committee (on fire standards) had developed a number of standards that are updates and improvements on the OSFM standards and that they are standards that are being maintained and updated on a regular basis by a consensus standards committee. The subgroup on referenced standards was tasked with identifying the ASTM standards that were updates (and improvements) on the OSFM standards. A key further concept is that the ASTM standards do not include pass/fail criteria while the OSFM standards do contain them. Therefore, the task of the subgroup was to add wording equivalent to the OSFM criteria wherever the ASTM standards were being referenced.

The subgroup also noticed that no ASTM standard exists that is equivalent or similar to the California Referenced Standards Code (Title 24, Part 12), *Exterior Windows SFM Standard 12-7A-2* and that this OSFM Standard needs to be retained.

It was also noticed that, for exterior vents, no ember penetration test exists within the OSFM set of tests, but that ASTM has issued ASTM E2886 but that the ASTM E2886 test was added into the 2016 California Building Standards (CBC 7A / CRC R337), with pass/fail criteria that ensure no ember penetration or flame intrusion. However, small modifications are necessary in this section because it needs to be clear that ASTM E2886 cannot be “passed” but must be met with the appropriate criteria. Also, the alternates to California Referenced Standards Code *Ignition-Resistant Material SFM Standard 12-7A-5* need to be included.

A discussion was held as to whether the OSFM standards should be deleted and it was decided to recommend that they be retained because manufacturers with materials or products that have already been approved would not have to retest their products for the next code edition. It was

also noticed that the ASTM standards are living documents that are likely to be revised and updated on a regular basis while the OSFM standards are likely to remain as is for the foreseeable future. Therefore, it was expected that the ASTM standards would have better likelihood of being maintained and updated for continued use in the code.

Because of the likely future utility of the ASTM standards, they are being proposed to be referenced first in each case, but without making any difference in options. It was made clear in the proposal that the code needs to accept passing either test (OSFM or ASTM with the conditions of acceptance shown) as equivalent for code purposes.

### **Comparison of SFM Tests published in the 2016 California Referenced Standards Code with ASTM Tests**

- Exterior Wall Siding and Sheathing SFM Standard 12-7A-1: equivalent to ASTM E2707-2015 *Standard Test Method for Determining Fire Penetration of Exterior Wall Assemblies Using a Direct Flame Impingement Exposure Conditions of Acceptance*. If one of the three tests fails to meet the Conditions of Acceptance, three additional tests shall be run. All of the additional tests must meet the

#### *Conditions of Acceptance:*

1. Absence of flame penetration through the wall assembly at any time.
2. Absence of evidence of glowing combustion on the interior surface of the assembly at the end of the 70-min test.

- Exterior Windows SFM Standard 12-7A-2: No ASTM equivalent exists

#### *Conditions of Acceptance:*

1. Duration of direct flame exposure. To pass this test standard, the window and window assembly shall withstand 8 minutes of direct flame exposure with the absence of flame penetration through the window frame or pane, or structural failure of the window frame or pane. Absence of flame penetration through the wall assembly at any time.
2. Flame penetration or structural failure. Flame penetration or structural failure of the flame or pane anytime during the test constitutes failure of this test standard.

- Horizontal Projection Underside SFM Standard 12-7A-3 (under eave): equivalent to ASTM E2957-2015 *Standard Test Method for Resistance to Wildfire Penetration of Eaves, Soffits and Other Projections*.

*Conditions of Acceptance:*

If one of the three tests fails to meet the Conditions of Acceptance, three additional tests shall be run. All of the additional tests must meet the Conditions of Acceptance.

1. Absence of flame penetration of the eaves or horizontal projection assembly at any time.
2. Absence of structural failure of the eaves or horizontal projection subassembly at any time.
3. Absence of sustained combustion of any kind at the conclusion of the 40-min test.

- Decking SFM Standard 12-7A-4: contains 2 tests and one alternate.

*Test Part A – Under Deck Flame Test: Equivalent to ASTM E2632/E2632M-2013e1 Standard Test Method for Evaluating the Under-Deck Fire Test Response of Deck Materials.*

*Test A Conditions of Acceptance.*

If one of the three tests fails to meet the Conditions of Acceptance, three additional tests shall be run. All of the additional tests must meet the Conditions of Acceptance.

1. Effective net peak heat release rate of less than or equal to 25 kW/ft<sup>2</sup> (269 kW/m<sup>2</sup>)
2. Absence of sustained flaming or glowing combustion of any kind at the conclusion of the 40-min observation period.
3. Absence of falling particles that are still burning when reaching the burner or floor.

*Test Part B – Burning Brand Exposure Test: Equivalent to ASTM E2726/E2726M-2012a Standard Test Method for Evaluating the Fire-Test-Response of Deck Structures to Burning Brands.*

*Test B Conditions of Acceptance:*

If one of the three tests fails to meet the Conditions of Acceptance, three additional tests shall be run. All of the additional tests must meet the Conditions of Acceptance.

1. Absence of sustained flaming or glowing combustion of any kind at the conclusion of the 40-min observation period.
2. Absence of falling particles that are still burning when reaching the burner or floor.

*Alternate Method A (12-7A-4A) – Under Deck Flame Test: Equivalent to ASTM E2632/E2632M-2013e1 Standard Test Method for Evaluating the Under-Deck Fire Test Response of Deck Materials.*

*Alternate Method A Condition of Acceptance:*

If one of the three tests fails to meet the Condition of Acceptance, three additional tests shall be run. All of the additional tests must meet the Condition of Acceptance.

1. Peak heat release rate of less than or equal to 25 kW/ft<sup>2</sup> (269 kW/m<sup>2</sup>).

- Ignition-Resistant Material SFM Standard 12-7A-5: equivalent to ASTM E84-2015b *Standard Test Method for Surface Burning Characteristics of Building Materials*, when tested in accordance with the test procedures and when the test is continued for an additional 20 minute period, for an “extended” 30 minute total period, with the following conditions of acceptance:

*Conditions of Acceptance:*

1. Material shall exhibit a flame spread index not exceeding 25 and shall show no evidence of progressive combustion following the extended 30-minute test.
2. Material shall exhibit a flame front that does not progress more than 10-1/2 feet (3200 mm) beyond the centerline of the burner at any time during the extended 30-minute test.

### **Proposed Code Changes to the California Building Code:**

The following are proposed changes to the 2016 California Building Code (Chapter 7A). The same changes will need to be made in the 2016 California Residential Code to Section R337. See Appendix A for changes to CRC.

**703A.5.2.1 Fire-retardant-treated wood.** *Fire-retardant-treated wood shall be tested in accordance with ASTM D2898 (Method A) ~~D-2898~~, “~~Standard Practice for Accelerated Weathering of Fire-Retardant Treated Wood for Fire Testing (Method A)~~” and the requirements of Section 2303.2.*

**703A.7 Standards of quality.** *The State Fire Marshal standards for exterior wildfire exposure protection listed below and as referenced in this chapter are located in the California Referenced Standards Code, Part 12 and Chapter 35 of this code.*

**SFM Standard 12-7A-1, Exterior Wall Siding and Sheathing.** *A fire*

resistance test standard consisting of a 150 kW intensity direct flame exposure for a 10-minute duration.

**SFM Standard 12-7A-2, Exterior Windows.** A fire resistance test standard consisting of a 150 kW intensity direct flame exposure for an a 8-minute duration.

**SFM Standard 12-7A-3, Horizontal Projection Underside** A fire resistance test standard consisting of a 300 kW intensity direct flame exposure for a 10-minute duration.

**SFM Standard 12-7A- 4, Decking.** A two-part test consisting of a heat release rate (Part A) deck assembly combustion test with an under deck exposure of 80 kW intensity direct flame for a 3-minute duration, and a (Part B) sustained deck assembly combustion test consisting of a deck upper surface burning ember exposure with a 12 mph wind for 40 minutes using a 2.2lb (1kg) burning "Class A" size 12"x12"x 2.25" (300 mm x 300 mm x 57 mm) roof test brand.

**SFM Standard 12-7A-4A, Decking Alternate Method A.** A heat release rate deck assembly combustion test with an under deck exposure of 80 kW intensity direct flame for a 3-minute duration.

**SFM Standard 12-7A-5, Ignition-resistant Material.** A generic building material surface burning flame spread test standard consisting of an extended 30 minute ASTM E84 or UL 723 test method as is used for fire-retardant-treated wood.

ASTM D2898 Standard Practice for Accelerated Weathering of Fire-Retardant-Treated Wood for Fire Testing

ASTM D3909/D3909M Standard Specification for Asphalt Roll Roofing (Glass Felt) Surfaced With Mineral Granules

ASTM E84 Standard Test Method for Surface Burning Characteristics of Building Materials

ASTM E2632/E2632M Standard Test Method for Evaluating the Under-Deck Fire Test Response of Deck Materials

ASTM E2707 Standard Test Method for Determining Fire Penetration of Exterior Wall Assemblies Using a Direct Flame Impingement Exposure

ASTM E2726/E2726M Standard Test Method for Evaluating the Fire-Test-Response of Deck Structures to Burning Brands

ASTM E2886/E2886M Standard Test Method for Evaluating the Ability of Exterior Vents to Resist the Entry of Embers and Direct Flame Impingement

ASTM E2957 Standard Test Method for Resistance to Wildfire Penetration of Eaves, Soffits and Other Projections

NFPA 257 Standard on Fire Test for Window and Glass Block Assemblies

UL 723 Standard for Test for Surface Burning Characteristics of Building Materials

**704A.2 Ignition-resistant materials.** Ignition-resistant materials shall be determined in accordance with ~~comply with~~ one of the following:

1. The requirements in Section 704A.3 when tested in accordance with the test procedures set forth in ASTM E84 or UL 723,
2. The test procedures and requirements set forth in SFM Standard 12-7A-5 "Ignition-Resistant Material", or
3. One of the alternative methods in Section 704A.4, in accordance with this section.

**704A.3 Conditions of acceptance for ignition-resistant material tested in accordance with ASTM E84 or UL 723.** A material shall comply with the conditions of acceptance in 1 and 2 below when the test is continued for an additional 20-minute period, meaning for a total test period of an "extended" 30-minutes. test period.

1. The material shall exhibit a flame spread index not exceeding 25 and shall show no evidence of progressive combustion following the extended 30-minute test period.
2. The material shall exhibit a flame front that does not progress more than 10-1/2 feet (3200 mm) beyond the centerline of the burner at any time during the extended 30-minute test period.

**~~704A.3~~704A.4 Alternative methods for determining ignition-resistant material.** Any one of the following shall be accepted as meeting the definition of ignition-resistant material:

1. Noncombustible material. Material that complies with the definition for noncombustible materials in Section 202.



2. Fire-retardant-treated wood. Fire-retardant-treated wood identified for exterior use that complies with the requirements of Section 2303.2.

3. Fire-retardant-treated wood shingles and shakes. Fire-retardant-treated wood shingles and shakes, as defined in Section 1505.6 and listed by State Fire Marshal for use as "Class B" roof covering, shall be accepted as an ignition-resistant wall covering material when installed over solid sheathing.

**705A.2 Roof coverings.** Where the roof profile allows a space between the roof covering and roof decking, the spaces shall be constructed to ~~prevent~~resist the intrusion of flames and embers, be fire stopped with approved materials or have one layer of minimum 72 pound (32.4 kg) mineral-surfaced nonperforated cap sheet complying with ASTM D3909 ~~D 3909~~ installed over the combustible decking.

**705A.3 Roof valleys.** Where valley flashing is installed, the flashing shall be not less than 0.019-inch (0.48 mm) No. 26 gage galvanized sheet corrosion-resistant metal installed over not less than one layer of minimum 72 pound (32.4 kg) mineral-surfaced nonperforated cap sheet complying with ASTM D3909 ~~D-3909~~, at least 36-inch-wide (914 mm) running the full length of the valley.

**706A.2 Requirements.** Ventilation openings for enclosed attics, enclosed eave soffit spaces, enclosed rafter spaces formed where ceilings are applied directly to the underside of roof rafters, and underfloor ventilation openings shall be fully covered with metal wire mesh, vents, other materials or other devices that meet one of the following requirements:

1. Vents shall be listed to ASTM E2886 and comply with all of the following:  
~~Listed vents complying with ASTM E2886.~~

1.1 There shall be no flaming ignition of the cotton material during the Ember Intrusion Test  
~~The Ember Intrusion Test shall have no flaming ignition of the cotton material.~~

1.2 There shall be no flaming ignition during the Integrity Test portion of the Flame Intrusion Test.

1.3 The maximum temperature of the unexposed side of the vent shall not exceed 662°F (350°C).

2. Vents ~~complying~~ shall comply with all of the following.

2.1 The dimensions of the openings therein shall be a minimum of 1/16-inch (1.6 mm) and shall not exceed 1/8-inch (3.2 mm).

2.2 The materials used shall be noncombustible.

**Exception:** Vents located under the roof covering, along the ridge of roofs, with the exposed surface of the vent covered by noncombustible materials shall be permitted to be of combustible materials.

2.3 The materials used shall be corrosion resistant.

**706A.3 Ventilation openings on the underside of eaves and cornices.** Vents shall not be installed on the underside of eaves and cornices.

**Exceptions:**

1. Vents listed to ASTM E2886 and complying with all of the following Listed vents complying with ASTM E2886.

1.1 There shall be no flaming ignition of the cotton material during the Ember Intrusion Test~~The Ember Intrusion Test shall have no flaming ignition of the cotton material.~~

1.2 There shall be no flaming ignition during the Integrity Test portion of the Flame Intrusion Test.

1.3 The maximum temperature of the unexposed side of the vent shall not exceed 662°F (350°C).

2. The enforcing agency may~~shall be permitted to accept or approve special eave and cornice vents that resist the intrusion of flame and burning embers.~~

3. Vents complying with the requirements of Section 706A.2 may~~shall be permitted to be installed on the underside of eaves and cornices in accordance with either one of the following conditions:~~

3.1 The attic space being ventilated is fully protected by an automatic sprinkler system installed in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1 or,

3.2 The exterior wall covering and exposed underside of the eave are of noncombustible materials or of ignition-resistant materials, as determined in accordance with SFM Standard 12-7A-5 Ignition-Resistant Material the requirements of Section 704A.3, and the vent is located more than 12 feet (3.66 m) from the ground or walking surface of a deck, porch, patio or similar surface.

**707A.3 Exterior walls.** The exterior wall covering or wall assembly shall comply with one of the following requirements:

1. Noncombustible material
2. Ignition-resistant material
3. Heavy timber exterior wall assembly
4. Log wall construction assembly

5. Wall assemblies that ~~meet the performance criteria~~ have been tested in accordance with the test procedures for a 10-minute direct flame contact exposure test set forth in ASTM E2707 with the conditions of acceptance shown in Section 707A.3.1

6. Wall assemblies that meet the performance criteria in accordance with the test procedures for a 10-minute direct flame contact exposure test set forth in SFM Standard 12-7A-1.

**Exception:** Any of the following shall be deemed to meet the assembly performance criteria and intent of this section:

1. One layer of  $\frac{5}{8}$ -inch Type X gypsum sheathing applied behind the exterior covering or cladding on the exterior side of the framing
2. The exterior portion of a 1-hour fire resistive exterior wall assembly designed for exterior fire exposure including assemblies using the gypsum panel and sheathing products listed in the Gypsum Association Fire Resistance Design Manual

**707A.3.1 Conditions of acceptance when tested in accordance with ASTM E2707.** The ASTM E2707 test shall be conducted on a minimum of three test specimens and the conditions of acceptance in 1 and 2 below shall be met. If any one of the three tests does not meet the conditions of acceptance, three additional tests shall be run. All of the additional tests shall meet the conditions of acceptance.

1. Absence of flame penetration through the wall assembly at any time.
2. Absence of evidence of glowing combustion on the interior surface of the assembly at the end of the 70-min test.

~~707A.3.1~~**707A.3.2 Extent of exterior wall covering.** Exterior wall coverings shall extend from the top of the foundation to the roof, and terminate at 2 inch (50.8 mm) nominal solid wood blocking between rafters at all roof overhangs, or in the case of enclosed eaves, terminate at the enclosure.

**707A.5 Enclosed roof eaves and roof eave soffits.** The exposed underside of enclosed roof eaves having either a boxed-in roof eave soffit with a horizontal underside, or sloping rafter tails with an exterior covering applied to the underside of the rafter tails, shall be protected by one of the following:

1. Noncombustible material
2. Ignition-resistant material
3. One layer of  $\frac{5}{8}$ -inch Type X gypsum sheathing applied behind an exterior covering on the underside of the rafter tails or soffit
4. The exterior portion of a 1-hour fire resistive exterior wall assembly applied to the underside of the rafter tails or soffit including assemblies

using the gypsum panel and sheathing products listed in the Gypsum Association Fire Resistance Design Manual

5. Boxed-in roof eave soffit assemblies with a horizontal underside that meet the performance criteria in Section 707A.9 when tested in accordance with the test procedures set forth in ASTM E2957

6. Boxed-in roof eave soffit assemblies with a horizontal underside that meet the performance criteria in accordance with the test procedures set forth in SFM Standard 12-7A-3

**Exceptions:** The following materials do not require protection:

1. Gable end overhangs and roof assembly projections beyond an exterior wall other than at the lower end of the rafter tails
2. Fascia and other architectural trim boards

**707A.6 Exterior porch ceilings.** The exposed underside of exterior porch ceilings shall be protected by one of the following:

1. Noncombustible material
2. Ignition-resistant material
3. One layer of  $\frac{5}{8}$ -inch Type X gypsum sheathing applied behind the exterior covering on the underside of the ceiling
4. The exterior portion of a 1-hour fire resistive exterior wall assembly applied to the underside of the ceiling assembly including assemblies using the gypsum panel and sheathing products listed in the Gypsum Association Fire Resistance Design Manual
5. Porch ceiling assemblies with a horizontal underside that meet the performance criteria in Section 707A.9 when tested in accordance with the test procedures set forth in ASTM E2957
6. Porch ceiling assemblies with a horizontal underside that meet the performance criteria in accordance with the test procedures set forth in SFM Standard 12-7A-3

**Exception:** Architectural trim boards.

**707A.7 Floor projections.** The exposed underside of a cantilevered floor projection where a floor assembly extends over an exterior wall shall be protected by one of the following:

1. Noncombustible material
2. Ignition-resistant material
3. One layer of  $\frac{5}{8}$ -inch Type X gypsum sheathing applied behind an exterior covering on the underside of the floor projection
4. The exterior portion of a 1-hour fire resistive exterior wall assembly applied to the underside of the floor projection including assemblies using the gypsum panel and sheathing products listed in the Gypsum Association Fire Resistance Design Manual

5. The underside of a floor projection assembly that meet the performance criteria in Section 707A.9 when tested in accordance with the test procedures set forth in ASTM E2957

6. The underside of a floor projection assembly that meet the performance criteria in accordance with the test procedures set forth in SFM Standard 12-7A-3

**Exception:** Architectural trim boards.

**707A.8 Underfloor protection.** The underfloor area of elevated or overhanging buildings shall be enclosed to grade in accordance with the requirements of this chapter or the underside of the exposed underfloor shall consist of one of the following:

1. Noncombustible material
2. Ignition-resistant material
3. One layer of 5/8-inch Type X gypsum sheathing applied behind an exterior covering on the underside of the floor projection
4. The exterior portion of a 1-hour fire resistive exterior wall assembly applied to the underside of the floor including assemblies using the gypsum panel and sheathing products listed in the Gypsum Association Fire Resistance Design Manual
5. The underside of a floor assembly that meets the performance criteria in Section 707A.9 when tested in accordance with the test procedures set forth in ASTM E2957
6. The underside of a floor assembly that meets the performance criteria in accordance with the test procedures set forth in SFM Standard 12-7A-3

**Exception:** Heavy timber structural columns and beams do not require protection.

**707A.9 Conditions of acceptance when tested in accordance with ASTM E2957.** The test shall be conducted on a minimum of three test specimens and the conditions of acceptance in 1 through 3 below shall be met. If any one of the three tests does not meet the conditions of acceptance, three additional tests shall be run. All of the additional tests shall meet the conditions of acceptance.

1. Absence of flame penetration of the eaves or horizontal projection assembly at any time.
2. Absence of structural failure of the eaves or horizontal projection subassembly at any time.
3. Absence of sustained combustion of any kind at the conclusion of the 40-minute test.

**708A.2 Exterior glazing.** The following exterior glazing materials and/or assemblies shall comply with this section:

1. Exterior windows
2. Exterior glazed doors
3. Glazed openings within exterior doors
4. Glazed openings within exterior garage doors
5. Exterior structural glass veneer
6. Vents

**708A.3 Exterior doors.** Exterior doors shall comply with one of the following:

1. The exterior surface or cladding shall be of noncombustible material
2. The exterior surface or cladding shall be of ignition-resistant material,~~or~~
3. The exterior door shall ~~2. Shall~~ be constructed of solid core wood that complies with the following requirements:
  - ~~2.1.~~ 3.1 Stiles and rails shall not be less than 1 3/8 inches thick.
  - ~~2.2.~~ 3.2 ~~Raised p~~ Panels shall not be less than 1 1/4 inches thick, except for the exterior perimeter of the ~~raised~~ panel that ~~may~~ shall be permitted to taper to a tongue not less than 3/8 inch thick.
- ~~3. Shall~~ 4. The exterior door assembly shall have a fire-resistance rating of not less than 20 minutes when tested according to NFPA 252.
- ~~4. Shall~~ 5. The exterior surface or cladding shall be tested to meet the performance requirements of Section 707A.3.1 when tested in accordance with ASTM E2707.
6. The exterior surface or cladding shall be tested to meet the performance requirements of SFM Standard 12-7A-1.

**709A.3 Decking Surfaces.** The walking surface material of decks, porches, balconies and stairs shall be constructed with one of the following materials:

1. ~~Ignition-resistant material that~~ Material that complies with the performance requirements of Section 709A.4 when tested in accordance with both ASTM E2632 and ASTM E2726.
2. Ignition resistant material that complies with the performance requirements of 704A.3 when tested in accordance with ASTM E84 or UL 723.
3. Material that complies with the performance requirements of both SFM Standard 12-7A-4 and SFM Standard 12-7A-5.
- ~~2.4.~~ Exterior fire retardant treated wood
- ~~3.5.~~ Noncombustible material
- ~~4.6.~~ Any material that complies with the performance requirements of SFM Standard 12-7A-4A when attached exterior wall covering is also either composed noncombustible or ignition-resistant material.



**Exception:** Wall material shall be permitted to be of any material that otherwise complies with this chapter when the decking surface material complies with the performance requirements ASTM E84 with a Class B flame spread index.

7. Any material that complies with the performance requirements of Section 709A.5 when tested in accordance with ASTM E2632 and when attached exterior wall covering is also composed of only noncombustible or ignition-resistant materials.

**Exception:** Wall material shall be permitted to be of any material that otherwise complies with this chapter when the decking surface material complies with the performance requirements ASTM E84 with a Class B flame spread index.

**709A.4 Requirements for type of ignition-resistant material in Section 709A.3, item (1).** The material shall be tested in accordance with both ASTM E2632 and ASTM E2726 and shall comply with the conditions of acceptance in 709A.4.1 and 709A.4.2. The material shall also be tested in accordance with ASTM E84 or UL 723 and comply with the performance requirements of Section 704A.3.

**709A.4.1 Conditions of acceptance for ASTM E2632:** The ASTM E2632 test shall be conducted on a minimum of three test specimens and the conditions of acceptance in 1 through 3 below shall be met. If any one of the three tests does not meet the conditions of acceptance, three additional tests shall be run. All of the additional tests shall meet the conditions of acceptance.

1. Peak heat release rate of less than or equal to 25 kW/ft<sup>2</sup> (269 kW/m<sup>2</sup>)
2. Absence of sustained flaming or glowing combustion of any kind at the conclusion of the 40-min observation period.
3. Absence of falling particles that are still burning when reaching the burner or floor.

**709A.4.2 Conditions of acceptance for ASTM E2726:** The ASTM E2726 test shall be conducted on a minimum of three test specimens and the conditions of acceptance in 1 and 2 below shall be met. If any one of the three tests does not meet the conditions of acceptance, three additional tests shall be run. All of the additional tests shall meet the conditions of acceptance.

1. Absence of sustained flaming or glowing combustion of any kind at the conclusion of the 40-min observation period

2. Absence of falling particles that are still burning when reaching the burner or floor.

**709A.5 Requirements for type of ignition-resistant material in Section 709A.3, item (6):** The material shall be tested in accordance with ASTM E2632 and shall comply with the following condition of acceptance. The ASTM E2632 test shall be conducted on a minimum of three test specimens and the peak heat release rate shall be less than or equal to 25 kW/ft<sup>2</sup> (269 kW/m<sup>2</sup>). If any one of the three tests does not meet the conditions of acceptance, three additional tests shall be run. All of the additional tests shall meet the condition of acceptance.

## CHAPTER 35 REFERENCED STANDARDS

ASTM	ASTM International 100 Barr Harbor Drive West Conshohocken, PA 19428-2959	
	Standard reference number	Referenced in code section number
	E84-2013A2016	Standard Test Method for Surface Burning Characteristics of Building Materials... 202, 402.6.4.4, 406.7.2, 703.5.2, 720.1, 720.4, 803.1.1, 803.1.4, 803.10, 803.11, 806.7, 1404.12.1, 1407.9, 1407.10.1, 1409.9, 1409.10.1, 1510.6.2, 1510.6.3, 2303.2, 2603.3, 2603.4.1.13, 2606.3.5.4, 2603.7.1, 2603.7.2, 2603.7.3, 2604.2.4, 2606.4, 2612.3, 2614.3, 3105.4
	E2632/E2632M-2013 e1	Standard Test Method for Evaluating the Under-Deck Fire Test Response of Deck Materials... 709A.3, 709A.4, 709A.4.1, 709A.5
	E2707-2015	Standard Test Method for Determining Fire Penetration of Exterior Wall Assemblies Using a Direct Flame Impingement Exposure 707A.3, 707A.3.1, 708A.3
	E2726/E2726-2012a	Standard Test Method for Evaluating the Fire-Test-Response of Deck Structures to Burning Brands 709A.3, 709A.4, 709A.4.2
	E2886/E2886M-2014	Standard Test Method for Evaluating the Ability of Exterior Vents to Resist the Entry of Embers and Direct Flame Impingement 706A.2, 706A.3
	E2957-2015	Standard Test Method for Resistance to Wildfire Penetration of Eaves, Soffits and Other Projections 707A.5, 707A.6, 707A.8, 707A.9

### Rationale

1. A decision was made to add the equivalent ASTM standards to the California Referenced Standards Code SFM Standards when they exist. ASTM standards exist covering most (but not all) the SFM Standards.
2. ASTM E05 (fire) standards typically have no pass/fail criteria but the SFM Standards do and that needs to be added. The criteria need to be in Chapter 7A and not in chapter 35 because they are not contained within the ASTM standards.
3. Retaining the SFM Standards is important because there are materials/products that have received approval based on them and

- they should not need to be retested with the new code.
4. In future it is likely that ASTM standards may be modified and updated and, therefore, it is likely that, in future editions the SFM Standards may be replaced (because they do not change). Therefore, the ASTM standards have been placed as the first option with the SFM Standards as the second option.
  5. Passing either test is considered equivalent for the code in the proposed text.
  6. California Referenced Standards Code SFM Standard 12-7-A5 is equivalent to the "extended ASTM E84 or UL 723" as a requirement for "ignition resistant materials". However, neither ASTM E84 nor UL 723 describe the "extended" protocol for the additional 20 minutes (for a total of 30 minutes) nor pass/fail criteria and those have been added. The SFM Standard has been retained as an alternative option. Moreover, neither ASTM E84 nor UL 723 describes any option for "additional 20 minute" testing and so this must be described in the code, just like it is in the IBC.
  7. ASTM E2707 is very similar to (and based on) California Referenced Standards Code SFM Standard 12-7-A1. However, ASTM E2707 does not have pass/fail criteria and those have been added. The CA OSFM standard has been retained as an alternative option.
  8. ASTM E2957 is very similar to (and based on) California Referenced Standards Code SFM Standard 12-7-A3. However, ASTM E2957 does not have pass/fail criteria and those have been added. The SFM Standard has been retained as an alternative option.
  9. No SFM Standard test exists for exterior vents but ASTM E2886 covers that issue. Therefore, this test was added to the CBC code in the 2016 edition. However, ASTM E2886 does not have pass/fail criteria and those have been added, based on no flame intrusion and no ember penetration. A small change is proposed for this section because ASTM E2886 itself has no pass-fail requirements and cannot be "passed". Also, the alternates to California Referenced Standards Code SFM Standard 12-7-A-5 needed to be included
  10. California Referenced Standards Code SFM Standard 12-7-A4 contains two tests and they have been issued separately as ASTM E2632 and ASTM E2726. However, neither ASTM E2632 nor ASTM E2726 have pass/fail criteria and those have been added. The SFM Standard has been retained as an alternative option.
  11. ASTM E2632 is very similar to (and based on) California Referenced Standards Code SFM Standard 12-7-A4A (and a portion of SFM Standard 12-7-A4). However, ASTM E2632 does not have pass/fail criteria and those have been added. The SFM Standard has been retained as an alternative option.
  12. CBC Section 709A.3 on decking surface, item 1 had duplicate

requirements for California Referenced Standards Code SFM Standard 12-7-A4 and California Referenced Standards Code SFM Standard 12-7-A5 and this has been separated into two subparagraphs, with the corresponding pass fail criteria. The SFM Standards have been retained as an alternative option.

13. California Referenced Standards Code SFM Standard 12-7-A2 does not have an ASTM equivalent and has been retained without an alternative.

### **General Clean Up**

This section contains items that need general clean up. No changes in regulatory effect. The proposed wording below incorporates also the changes to the code sections recommended above. There was other clean up within the sections above, which are shown in the respective sections.

### **Proposed Code Changes to the California Building Code:**

The following are proposed changes to the 2016 California Building Code (Chapter 7A). The same changes will need to be made in the 2016 California Residential Code to Section R337. See Appendix A for changes to CRC.

**701A.5 Vegetation management compliance.** *Prior to building permit final approval, the property shall be in compliance with the vegetation management requirements prescribed in California Fire Code Section 4906, including California Public Resources Code 4291 or California Government Code Section 51182. Acceptable methods of compliance inspection and documentation shall be determined by the enforcing agency and shall be permitted to ~~may~~ include any of the following:*

1. *Local, state or federal fire authority or designee authorized to enforce vegetation management requirements*
2. *Enforcing agency*
3. *Third party inspection and certification authorized to enforce vegetation management requirements*
4. *Property owner certification authorized by the enforcing agency*

### **Rationale**

All of the changes are intended simply to eliminate non-mandatory language (the term “may”) without altering the intended meaning. Non-mandatory language has the potential to create potential lack of clarity and/or of enforceability. Note, however that the proposed wording for the

change in this section incorporates also the other changes recommended for these sections.

## **Conclusion**

The Task Force spent a significant amount of time exploring issues related to the 2016 CBC Chapter 7A, CRC R337, and related reference standards. The Task Force was able to evaluate several items including, skylights, accessory structures, garage doors, and testing standards. The changes proposed are relatively minor or editorial in nature. Due to time constraints the Task Force was not able to evaluate potential code changes to several other areas, shown in Appendix B. The Wildfire Protection Building Construction Task Force will resume in early 2017 to address these and other outstanding issues.

The Task Force included representatives from industry, building and fire code officials, testing laboratories, and other interested stakeholders. The Task Force was able to reach general consensus on the recommended code changes within this report.

## **Appendix A- Proposed Code Changes to the CRC**

Appendix A mirrors the proposed code changes to the CBC shown in the *Recommendations* section. CBC Chapter 7A and CRC Section R337 have the same requirements and need to match each other. The following are the proposed code changes to the CRC:

### ***Skylights***

#### **SECTION R337.8 EXTERIOR WINDOWS, SKYLIGHTS AND DOORS**

**R337.8.2 Exterior glazing.** *The following exterior glazing materials and/or assemblies shall comply with this section:*

- 1. Exterior windows*
- 2. Exterior glazed doors*
- 3. Glazed openings within exterior doors*
- 4. Glazed openings within exterior garage doors*
- 5. Exterior structural glass veneer*
- 6. Skylights*

**R337.8.2.1 Exterior windows, skylights and exterior glazed door assembly requirements.** *Exterior windows, skylights and exterior glazed door assemblies shall comply with one of the following requirements:*

- 1. Be constructed of multipane glazing with a minimum of one pane meeting the requirements of Section 2406 Safety Glazing, or*
- 2. Be constructed of glass block units, or*
- 3. Have a fire-resistance rating of not less than 20 minutes when tested according to NFPA 257, or*
- 4. Be tested to meet the performance requirements of SFM Standard 12-7A-2*

### ***Garage Doors***

**R337.8.4 Weather stripping.** *All exterior doors, including garage doors shall be provided with weather stripping to resist the intrusion of embers from entering through gaps between doors and door openings. Weather stripping or seals shall be installed on the bottom, sides, and tops of doors to reduce gaps between doors and door openings to 1/8-inch (3.2 mm) or less.*



## **Accessory Structures**

**R337.1.3 Application.** New buildings located in any Fire Hazard Severity Zone or any Wildland-Urban Interface Fire Area designated by the enforcing agency constructed after the application date shall comply with the provisions of this chapter.

### **Exceptions:**

1. Buildings of an accessory character classified as a Group U occupancy and not exceeding 120 square feet in floor area, when located at least 30 feet from an applicable building.
2. Buildings of an accessory character classified as Group U occupancy of any size located least 50 feet from an applicable building.
3. Buildings classified as a Group U Agricultural Building, as defined in Section 202 of this code (see also Appendix C – Group U Agricultural Buildings), when located at least 50 feet from an applicable building.
4. Additions to and remodels of buildings originally constructed prior to the applicable application date.

For the purposes of this section and R337.10, applicable building includes all buildings that have residential, commercial, educational, institutional, or similar occupancy type use.

**R337.1.5 Application to accessory buildings and miscellaneous structures.** New accessory buildings and miscellaneous structures specified in section R337.10 shall comply only with the requirements of that section.

**R337.10.1 General.** Accessory and miscellaneous structures, other than buildings covered by Section 701A.3, which pose a significant exterior exposure hazard to applicable buildings during wildfires shall be constructed to conform to the ignition resistance requirements of this section. Accessory buildings and miscellaneous structures defined in this section that have the potential to pose a significant exterior fire exposure hazard to applicable buildings during wildfires shall be constructed to conform to the requirements of this section.

**R337.10.2 Applicability.** The provisions of this section shall apply to trellises, arbors, patio covers, carports, gazebos and similar structures of an accessory or miscellaneous character. the specified accessory buildings covered by Section R337.1.3 Exception 1. This section shall also apply to specified attached and detached miscellaneous structures that require a building permit, including but not limited to; trellises, arbors, patio covers, carports, gazebos, and similar structures.

**Exceptions.**

1. Decks shall comply with the requirements of Section R337.9.
2. Awnings and canopies shall comply with the requirements of Section 3105 of the California Building Code.
3. Exterior wall architectural trim, embellishments, and fascias.
4. Roof or wall top cornice projections and similar assemblies.

**~~R337.10.3 Where required.~~** ~~Accessory structures shall comply with the requirements of this section. No requirements shall apply to accessory buildings or miscellaneous structures when located at least 50 feet from an applicable building. Applicable accessory buildings and attached miscellaneous structures, or detached miscellaneous structures that are installed at a distance of less than 3 feet from an applicable building, shall comply with this section. When required by the enforcing agency, detached miscellaneous structures that are installed at a distance of more than 3 feet but less than 50 feet from an applicable building shall comply with the requirements of this section.~~

**~~R337.10.3.1 Accessory building requirements.~~** ~~Attached accessory structures shall comply with the requirements of this section. Applicable accessory buildings that are less than 120 square feet in floor area, and are located more than 30 feet but less than 50 feet from an applicable building shall be constructed of noncombustible materials or of ignition resistant materials as described in Section R337.4.2.~~

**~~R337.10.3.2 Attached miscellaneous structure requirements.~~** ~~Applicable miscellaneous structures that are attached to, or installed at a distance of less than 3 feet from, an applicable building shall be constructed of noncombustible materials or of ignition resistant materials as described in Section R337.4.2.~~

**~~R337.10.3.3 Detached miscellaneous structure requirements.~~** ~~When required by the enforcing agency, applicable detached miscellaneous structures that are installed at a distance of more than 3 feet but less than 50 feet from, an applicable building shall be constructed of noncombustible materials or of ignition resistant materials as described in Section 704A.2.~~

**~~R337.10.4 Requirements.~~** ~~When required by the enforcing agency accessory structures shall be constructed of noncombustible or ignition-resistant materials.~~

## **Referenced Standards**

**R337.3.5.2.1 Fire-retardant-treated wood.** Fire-retardant-treated wood shall be tested in accordance with ASTM D2898 (Method A) ~~D-2898, "Standard Practice for Accelerated Weathering of Fire-Retardant-Treated Wood for Fire Testing (Method A)"~~ and the requirements of Section 2303.2.

**R337.3.7 Standards of quality.** The State Fire Marshal standards for exterior wildfire exposure protection listed below and as referenced in this chapter are located in the California Referenced Standards Code, Part 12 and Chapter ~~3544~~ of this code.

**SFM Standard 12-7A-1, Exterior Wall Siding and Sheathing.** A fire resistance test standard consisting of a 150 kW intensity direct flame exposure for a 10-minute duration.

**SFM Standard 12-7A-2, Exterior Windows.** A fire resistance test standard consisting of a 150 kW intensity direct flame exposure for an a 8-minute duration.

**SFM Standard 12-7A-3, Horizontal Projection Underside** A fire resistance test standard consisting of a 300 kW intensity direct flame exposure for a 10-minute duration.

**SFM Standard 12-7A- 4, Decking.** A two-part test consisting of a heat release rate (Part A) deck assembly combustion test with an under deck exposure of 80 kW intensity direct flame for a 3-minute duration, and a (Part B) sustained deck assembly combustion test consisting of a deck upper surface burning ember exposure with a 12 mph wind for 40 minutes using a 2.2lb (1kg) burning "Class A" size 12"x12"x 2.25" (300 mm x 300 mm x 57 mm) roof test brand.

**SFM Standard 12-7A-4A, Decking Alternate Method A.** A heat release rate deck assembly combustion test with an under deck exposure of 80 kW intensity direct flame for a 3-minute duration.

**SFM Standard 12-7A-5, Ignition-resistant Material.** A generic building material surface burning flame spread test standard consisting of an extended 30 minute ASTM E84 or UL 723 test method as is used for fire-retardant-treated wood.

ASTM D2898 Standard Practice for Accelerated Weathering of Fire-Retardant-Treated Wood for Fire Testing

ASTM D3909/D3909M Standard Specification for Asphalt Roll Roofing (Glass Felt) Surfaced With Mineral Granules

ASTM E84 Standard Test Method for Surface Burning Characteristics of Building Materials

ASTM E2632/E2632M Standard Test Method for Evaluating the Under-Deck Fire Test Response of Deck Materials

ASTM E2707 Standard Test Method for Determining Fire Penetration of Exterior Wall Assemblies Using a Direct Flame Impingement Exposure

ASTM E2726/E2726M Standard Test Method for Evaluating the Fire-Test-Response of Deck Structures to Burning Brands

ASTM E2886/E2886M Standard Test Method for Evaluating the Ability of Exterior Vents to Resist the Entry of Embers and Direct Flame Impingement

ASTM E2957 Standard Test Method for Resistance to Wildfire Penetration of Eaves, Soffits and Other Projections

NFPA 257 Standard on Fire Test for Window and Glass Block Assemblies

UL 723 Standard for Test for Surface Burning Characteristics of Building Materials

**R337.4.2 Ignition-resistant materials.** ~~Ignition-resistant materials shall be determined in accordance with~~ comply with one of the following:

1. The requirements in Section R337.4.3 when tested in accordance with the test procedures set forth in ASTM E84 or UL 723,
2. The test procedures and requirements set forth in SFM Standard 12-7A-5 "Ignition-Resistant Material", or
3. One of the alternative methods in Section R337.4.4. ~~in accordance with this section.~~

**R337.4.3 Conditions of acceptance for ignition-resistant material tested in accordance with ASTM E84 or UL 723.** A material shall comply with the conditions of acceptance in 1 and 2 below when the test is continued for an additional 20-minute period, meaning for a total test period of an "extended" 30-minutes. test period.

1. The material shall exhibit a flame spread index not exceeding 25 and shall show no evidence of progressive combustion following the extended 30-minute test period.

2. The material shall exhibit a flame front that does not progress more than 10-1/2 feet (3200 mm) beyond the centerline of the burner at any time during the extended 30-minute test period.

**~~R337.4.3~~R337.4.4 Alternative methods for determining ignition-resistant material.** Any one of the following shall be accepted as meeting the definition of ignition-resistant material:

1. Noncombustible material. Material that complies with the definition for noncombustible materials in Section 202.

2. Fire-retardant-treated wood. Fire-retardant-treated wood identified for exterior use that complies with the requirements of Section 2303.2 of the California Building Code.

3. Fire-retardant-treated wood shingles and shakes. Fire-retardant-treated wood shingles and shakes, as defined in Section 1505.6 of the California Building Code and listed by State Fire Marshal for use as "Class B" roof covering, shall be accepted as an ignition-resistant wall covering material when installed over solid sheathing.

**R337.5.2 Roof coverings.** Where the roof profile allows a space between the roof covering and roof decking, the spaces shall be constructed to ~~prevent~~resist the intrusion of flames and embers, be fire stopped with approved materials or have one layer of minimum 72 pound (32.4 kg) mineral-surfaced nonperforated cap sheet complying with ASTM D3909 ~~D 3909~~ installed over the combustible decking.

**R337.5.3 Roof valleys.** Where valley flashing is installed, the flashing shall be not less than 0.019-inch (0.48 mm) No. 26 gage galvanized sheet corrosion-resistant metal installed over not less than one layer of minimum 72 pound (32.4 kg) mineral-surfaced nonperforated cap sheet complying with ASTM D3909 ~~D 3909~~, at least 36-inch-wide (914 mm) running the full length of the valley.

**R337.6.2 Requirements.** Ventilation openings for enclosed attics, enclosed eave soffit spaces, enclosed rafter spaces formed where ceilings are applied directly to the underside of roof rafters, and underfloor ventilation openings shall be fully covered with metal wire mesh, vents, other materials or other devices that meet one of the following requirements:

1. Vents shall be listed to ASTM E2886 and comply with all of the following:  
~~Listed vents complying with ASTM E2886 with the following test results:~~

1.1 There shall be no flaming ignition of the cotton material during the Ember Intrusion Test~~The Ember Intrusion Test shall have no flaming ignition of the cotton material.~~

1.2 There shall be no flaming ignition during the Integrity Test portion of the Flame Intrusion Test.

1.3 The maximum temperature of the unexposed side of the vent shall not exceed 662°F (350°C).

2. Vents ~~complying~~ shall comply with all of the following.

2.1 The dimensions of the openings therein shall be a minimum of 1/16-inch (1.6 mm) and shall not exceed 1/8-inch (3.2 mm).

2.2 The materials used shall be noncombustible.

**Exception:** Vents located under the roof covering, along the ridge of roofs, with the exposed surface of the vent covered by noncombustible materials shall be permitted to be of combustible materials.

2.3 The materials used shall be corrosion resistant.

**R337.6.3 Ventilation openings on the underside of eaves and cornices.** Vents shall not be installed on the underside of eaves and cornices.

**Exceptions:**

1. Vents listed to ASTM E2886 and complying with all of the following: ~~Listed vents complying with ASTM E2886.~~

1.1 There shall be no flaming ignition of the cotton material during the Ember Intrusion Test~~The Ember Intrusion Test shall have no flaming ignition of the cotton material.~~

1.2 There shall be no flaming ignition during the Integrity Test portion of the Flame Intrusion Test.

1.3 The maximum temperature of the unexposed side of the vent shall not exceed 662°F (350°C).

2. The enforcing agency ~~may~~ shall be permitted to accept or approve special eave and cornice vents that resist the intrusion of flame and burning embers.

3. Vents complying with the requirements of Section R337.6.2 ~~may~~ shall be permitted to be installed on the underside of eaves and cornices in accordance with either one of the following conditions:



3.1 The attic space being ventilated is fully protected by an automatic sprinkler system installed in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1 of the California Building Code or,

3.2 The exterior wall covering and exposed underside of the eave are of noncombustible materials or of ignition-resistant materials, as determined in accordance with SFM Standard 12-7A-5 Ignition-Resistant Material the requirements of Section R337.4.3, and the vent is located more than 12 feet (3.66 m) from the ground or walking surface of a deck, porch, patio or similar surface.

**R337.7.3 Exterior walls.** The exterior wall covering or wall assembly shall comply with one of the following requirements:

1. Noncombustible material
2. Ignition-resistant material
3. Heavy timber exterior wall assembly
4. Log wall construction assembly
5. Wall assemblies that ~~meet the performance criteria~~ have been tested in accordance with the test procedures for a 10-minute direct flame contact exposure test set forth in ASTM E2707 with the conditions of acceptance shown in Section R337.7.3.1
6. Wall assemblies that meet the performance criteria in accordance with the test procedures for a 10-minute direct flame contact exposure test set forth in SFM Standard 12-7A-1.

**Exception:** Any of the following shall be deemed to meet the assembly performance criteria and intent of this section:

1. One layer of 5/8-inch Type X gypsum sheathing applied behind the exterior covering or cladding on the exterior side of the framing
2. The exterior portion of a 1-hour fire resistive exterior wall assembly designed for exterior fire exposure including assemblies using the gypsum panel and sheathing products listed in the Gypsum Association Fire Resistance Design Manual

**R337.7.3.1 Conditions of acceptance when tested in accordance with ASTM E2707.** The ASTM E2707 test shall be conducted on a minimum of three test specimens and the conditions of acceptance in 1 and 2 below shall be met. If any one of the three tests does not meet the conditions of acceptance, three additional tests shall be run. All of the additional tests shall meet the conditions of acceptance.

1. Absence of flame penetration through the wall assembly at any time.
2. Absence of evidence of glowing combustion on the interior surface of the assembly at the end of the 70-min test.

**~~R337.7.3.1~~R337.7.3.2** **Extent of exterior wall covering.** Exterior wall coverings shall extend from the top of the foundation to the roof, and terminate at 2 inch (50.8 mm) nominal solid wood blocking between rafters at all roof overhangs, or in the case of enclosed eaves, terminate at the enclosure.

**R337.7.5 Enclosed roof eaves and roof eave soffits.** The exposed underside of enclosed roof eaves having either a boxed-in roof eave soffit with a horizontal underside, or sloping rafter tails with an exterior covering applied to the underside of the rafter tails, shall be protected by one of the following:

1. Noncombustible material
2. Ignition-resistant material
3. One layer of  $\frac{5}{8}$ -inch Type X gypsum sheathing applied behind an exterior covering on the underside of the rafter tails or soffit
4. The exterior portion of a 1-hour fire resistive exterior wall assembly applied to the underside of the rafter tails or soffit including assemblies using the gypsum panel and sheathing products listed in the Gypsum Association Fire Resistance Design Manual
5. Boxed-in roof eave soffit assemblies with a horizontal underside that meet the performance criteria in Section R337.7.9 when tested in accordance with the test procedures set forth in ASTM E2957
6. Boxed-in roof eave soffit assemblies with a horizontal underside that meet the performance criteria in accordance with the test procedures set forth in SFM Standard 12-7A-3

**Exceptions:** The following materials do not require protection:

1. Gable end overhangs and roof assembly projections beyond an exterior wall other than at the lower end of the rafter tails
2. Fascia and other architectural trim boards

**R337.7.6 Exterior porch ceilings.** The exposed underside of exterior porch ceilings shall be protected by one of the following:

1. Noncombustible material
2. Ignition-resistant material
3. One layer of  $\frac{5}{8}$ -inch Type X gypsum sheathing applied behind the exterior covering on the underside of the ceiling
4. The exterior portion of a 1-hour fire resistive exterior wall assembly applied to the underside of the ceiling assembly including assemblies using the gypsum panel and sheathing products listed in the Gypsum Association Fire Resistance Design Manual
5. Porch ceiling assemblies with a horizontal underside that meet the performance criteria in Section R337.7.9 when tested in accordance with the test procedures set forth in ASTM E2957

6. Porch ceiling assemblies with a horizontal underside that meet the performance criteria in accordance with the test procedures set forth in SFM Standard 12-7A-3

**Exception:** Architectural trim boards.

**R337.7.7 Floor projections.** The exposed underside of a cantilevered floor projection where a floor assembly extends over an exterior wall shall be protected by one of the following:

1. Noncombustible material
2. Ignition-resistant material
3. One layer of  $\frac{5}{8}$ -inch Type X gypsum sheathing applied behind an exterior covering on the underside of the floor projection
4. The exterior portion of a 1-hour fire resistive exterior wall assembly applied to the underside of the floor projection including assemblies using the gypsum panel and sheathing products listed in the Gypsum Association Fire Resistance Design Manual
5. The underside of a floor projection assembly that meet the performance criteria in Section R337.7.9 when tested in accordance with the test procedures set forth in ASTM E2957
6. The underside of a floor projection assembly that meet the performance criteria in accordance with the test procedures set forth in SFM Standard 12-7A-3

**Exception:** Architectural trim boards.

**R337.7.8 Underfloor protection.** The underfloor area of elevated or overhanging buildings shall be enclosed to grade in accordance with the requirements of this chapter or the underside of the exposed underfloor shall consist of one of the following:

1. Noncombustible material
2. Ignition-resistant material
3. One layer of  $\frac{5}{8}$ -inch Type X gypsum sheathing applied behind an exterior covering on the underside of the floor projection
4. The exterior portion of a 1-hour fire resistive exterior wall assembly applied to the underside of the floor including assemblies using the gypsum panel and sheathing products listed in the Gypsum Association Fire Resistance Design Manual
5. The underside of a floor assembly that meets the performance criteria in Section R337.7.9 when tested in accordance with the test procedures set forth in ASTM E2957
6. The underside of a floor assembly that meets the performance criteria in accordance with the test procedures set forth in SFM Standard 12-7A-3

**Exception:** Heavy timber structural columns and beams do not require protection.

**R337.7.9 Conditions of acceptance when tested in accordance with ASTM E2957.** The test shall be conducted on a minimum of three test specimens and the conditions of acceptance in 1 through 3 below shall be met. If any one of the three tests does not meet the conditions of acceptance, three additional tests shall be run. All of the additional tests shall meet the conditions of acceptance.

1. Absence of flame penetration of the eaves or horizontal projection assembly at any time.
2. Absence of structural failure of the eaves or horizontal projection subassembly at any time.
3. Absence of sustained combustion of any kind at the conclusion of the 40-minute test.

**R337.8.2 Exterior glazing.** The following exterior glazing materials and/or assemblies shall comply with this section:

1. Exterior windows
2. Exterior glazed doors
3. Glazed openings within exterior doors
4. Glazed openings within exterior garage doors
5. Exterior structural glass veneer
6. Vents

**R337.8.3 Exterior doors.** Exterior doors shall comply with one of the following:

1. The exterior surface or cladding shall be of noncombustible material
2. The exterior surface or cladding shall be of ignition-resistant material, ~~or~~
3. The exterior door shall ~~2. Shall~~ be constructed of solid core wood that complies with the following requirements:
  - ~~2.1.~~ 3.1 Stiles and rails shall not be less than 13/8 inches thick.
  - ~~2.2.~~ 3.2 ~~Raised p~~ Panels shall not be less than 1 1/4 inches thick, except for the exterior perimeter of the ~~raised~~ panel that ~~may~~ shall be permitted to taper to a tongue not less than 3/8 inch thick.
- ~~3. Shall~~ 4. The exterior door assembly shall have a fire-resistance rating of not less than 20 minutes when tested according to NFPA 252.
- ~~4. Shall~~ 5. The exterior surface or cladding shall be tested to meet the performance requirements of Section R337.7.3.1 when tested in accordance with ASTM E2707.
6. The exterior surface or cladding shall be tested to meet the performance requirements of SFM Standard 12-7A-1.

**R337.9.3 Decking Surfaces.** The walking surface material of decks, porches, balconies and stairs shall be constructed with one of the following materials:

1. Ignition-resistant material that Material that complies with the performance requirements of Section R337.9.4 when tested in accordance with both ASTM E2632 and ASTM E2726.
2. Ignition resistant material that complies with the performance requirements of R337.4.3 when tested in accordance with ASTM E84 or UL 723.
3. Material that complies with the performance requirements of both SFM Standard 12-7A-4 and SFM Standard 12-7A-5.
- 2.4. Exterior fire retardant treated wood
- 3.5. Noncombustible material
- 4.6. Any material that complies with the performance requirements of SFM Standard 12-7A-4A when attached exterior wall covering is also either composed noncombustible or ignition-resistant material.

**Exception:** Wall material shall be permitted to be of any material that otherwise complies with this chapter when the decking surface material complies with the performance requirements ASTM E84 with a Class B flame spread index.

7. Any material that complies with the performance requirements of Section R337.9.5 when tested in accordance with ASTM E2632 and when attached exterior wall covering is also composed of only noncombustible or ignition-resistant materials.

**Exception:** Wall material shall be permitted to be of any material that otherwise complies with this chapter when the decking surface material complies with the performance requirements ASTM E84 with a Class B flame spread index.

**R337.9.4 Requirements for type of ignition-resistant material in Section R337.9.3, item (1).** The material shall be tested in accordance with both ASTM E2632 and ASTM E2726 and shall comply with the conditions of acceptance in R337.9.4.1 and R337.9.4.2. The material shall also be tested in accordance with ASTM E84 or UL 723 and comply with the performance requirements of Section R337.4.3.

**R337.9.4.1 Conditions of acceptance for ASTM E2632:** The ASTM E2632 test shall be conducted on a minimum of three test specimens and the conditions of acceptance in 1 through 3 below shall be met. If any one of the three tests does not meet the conditions of acceptance, three additional

tests shall be run. All of the additional tests shall meet the conditions of acceptance.

1. Peak heat release rate of less than or equal to 25 kW/ft<sup>2</sup> (269 kW/m<sup>2</sup>)
2. Absence of sustained flaming or glowing combustion of any kind at the conclusion of the 40-min observation period.
3. Absence of falling particles that are still burning when reaching the burner or floor.

**R337.9.4.2 Conditions of acceptance for ASTM E2726:** The ASTM E2726 test shall be conducted on a minimum of three test specimens and the conditions of acceptance in 1 and 2 below shall be met. If any one of the three tests does not meet the conditions of acceptance, three additional tests shall be run. All of the additional tests shall meet the conditions of acceptance.

1. Absence of sustained flaming or glowing combustion of any kind at the conclusion of the 40-min observation period
2. Absence of falling particles that are still burning when reaching the burner or floor.

**R337.9.5 Requirements for type of ignition-resistant material in Section R337.9.3, item (6):** The material shall be tested in accordance with ASTM E2632 and shall comply with the following condition of acceptance. The ASTM E2632 test shall be conducted on a minimum of three test specimens and the peak heat release rate shall be less than or equal to 25 kW/ft<sup>2</sup> (269 kW/m<sup>2</sup>). If any one of the three tests does not meet the conditions of acceptance, three additional tests shall be run. All of the additional tests shall meet the condition of acceptance.

## CHAPTER 44 REFERENCED STANDARDS

### ASTM

ASTM International  
100 Barr Harbor Drive  
West Conshohocken, PA 19428-2959

Standard reference number	Title	Referenced in code section number
<u>E84-2013A-2016</u>	<u>Standard Test Method for Surface Burning Characteristics of Building Materials...</u>	202, 402.6.4.4, 406.7.2, 703.5.2, 720.1, 720.4, 803.1.1, 803.1.4, 803.10, 803.11, 806.7, 1404.12.1, 1407.9, 1407.10.1, 1409.9, 1409.10.1, 1510.6.2, 1510.6.3, 2303.2, 2603.3, 2603.4.1.13, 2606.3.5.4, 2603.7.1, 2603.7.2, 2603.7.3, 2604.2.4, 2606.4, 2612.3, 2614.3, 3105.4
<u>E2632/E2632M-2013</u> <u>e1</u>	<u>Standard Test Method for Evaluating the Under-Deck Fire Test Response of Deck Materials...</u>	<u>R337.9.3,</u> <u>R337.9.4, R337.9.4.1, R337.9.5</u>
<u>E2707-2015</u>	<u>Standard Test Method for Determining Fire Penetration of Exterior Wall Assemblies Using</u> <u>a Direct Flame Impingement Exposure</u>	<u>R337.7.3, R337.7.3.1, R337.8.3</u>



<u>E2726/E2726-2012a</u>	<u>Standard Test Method for Evaluating the Fire-Test-Response of Deck Structures to Burning Brands</u>	<u>R337.9.3</u> <u>R337.9.4, R337.9.4.2</u>
<u>E2886/E2886M-2014</u>	<u>Standard Test Method for Evaluating the Ability of Exterior Vents to Resist the Entry of Embers and Direct Flame Impingement</u>	<u>R337.6.2, R337.6.3</u>
<u>E2957-2015</u>	<u>Standard Test Method for Resistance to Wildfire Penetration of Eaves, Soffits and Other Projections</u>	<u>R337.7.5</u> <u>R337.7.6, R337.7.8, R337.7.9</u>

## **General Clean Up**

**R3371.5 Vegetation management compliance.** *Prior to building permit final approval, the property shall be in compliance with the vegetation management requirements prescribed in California Fire Code Section 4906, including California Public Resources Code 4291 or California Government Code Section 51182. Acceptable methods of compliance inspection and documentation shall be determined by the enforcing agency and shall be permitted to may include any of the following:*

- 1. Local, state or federal fire authority or designee authorized to enforce vegetation management requirements*
- 2. Enforcing agency*
- 3. Third party inspection and certification authorized to enforce vegetation management requirements*
- 4. Property owner certification authorized by the enforcing agency*

## **Appendix B- Future Task Force Items**

The OSFM is planning to reconvene the Wildfire Protection Building Construction Task Force in early 2017 to continue discussing outstanding issues. Recommendations from the 2017 Task Force will be considered for the 2018 Triennial Code Adoption Cycle (2019 California Building Standards), effective January 1, 2020. Below is a narrative of some of the key items that were not finalized by the 2016 Task Force due to time constraints.

- Skylights- the Task Force would like to see if future code changes should address some type of auto closing device on operable skylights. A realistic fire ember intrusion test should be developed. Until that test is developed, a prescriptive approach (e.g. screen) should be explored.
  - Full-scale experiments of roofing assemblies exposed to wind-driven firebrand showers have shown firebrands may accumulate on the surface of various roofing types. The interface of the roofing assembly with a skylight may be another potential firebrand accumulation point, and as a result, potential pathway for firebrands to enter the structure.
- Garage Doors- The next Task Force will need to continue to explore ways to make garage door openings more resistant to fire. This will include market availability of weather stripping products with improved fire performance via an approved fire test (e.g. ASTM E1354); preferred standards of quality/performance for weather stripping, assessment to variations of door-styles and equivalent protection afforded to all door-types, and weatherability of products to minimize owner service and continuing maintenance requirements.
- While the suggested use of weather stripping/seals to reduce gaps between doors and openings to 1/8" or less may be a first step to resist firebrand intrusion for garage doors, the future task force should consider developing specific plans regarding experiments to actually quantify the ability of these recommendations to resist garage door firebrand entry and subsequent structure ignition.
- Accessory Structures- Substantial changes to the CBC/CRC requirements should be fully explored. This includes developing prescriptive requirements, identifying acceptable effective ignition resistant building construction methods that are more practical than applying the full CBC/CRC provisions for outbuildings, sheds, carports, and similar structures, (e.g. require a carport to have CBC Chapter 15 approved Class A roof covering instead of requiring a full Class A roof assembly). For accessory structures, 'fencing assemblies' should be explored further.

- Consideration should be given to requiring gypsum board protection for some exposed wood materials when appropriate, in exterior walls or doors.
- Full-scale experiments of roofing assemblies exposed to wind-driven firebrand showers have shown firebrands may accumulate on the surface of various roofing types. The interface of the roofing assembly with a skylight may be another potential firebrand accumulation point, and as a result, potential pathway for firebrands to enter the structure.
- A subgroup on exterior walls considered that the fire performance of exterior walls needed to be improved because it has been shown that many standard wood products, without modification, can comply with the requirements of item 5 of section 707 A.3 and that the exposure to flying brands is a key consideration in terms of the fire hazard in wildland urban interface fires. The subgroup considered that the best way to move forward with this item is to use an existing test method already contained within the CA code, namely the roofing test ASTM E108 or UL 790.